

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

An additional species of reptile for Rottneest Island, Western Australia – Brooker, M.G., Smith, G.T., Saunders, D.A., Ingram, J.A., Leone, J. and de Rebeira, C.P.S. (*West. Aust. Nat.* 20:169–183 Table 3 and 21:142–143 Table 3) list the frogs and reptiles recorded from Garden and Rottneest Islands, Western Australia. They have omitted one species from Rottneest Island. The Western Australian Museum has two specimens of the fossorial skink *Lerista christinae* from Rottneest: R37952 collected at Salmon Bay on 1 December 1970 by R. Murphy and R94518 from Bickley Swamp collected by M. Burke on 20 February 1986. Both specimens were identified by former Curator of Reptiles, Western Australian Museum G.M. Storr in 1986 which postdates the list used by the above authors.

Unfortunately the list does not employ trinomials with the result that two endemic races of reptile on Rottneest (the Rottneest Island Dugite, *Pseudonaja affinis exilis* and the Rottneest Island Bobtail, *Tiliqua rugosa konowi*) are not identified and contrasted with the presence of *Tiliqua rugosa rugosa* on Garden Island and *Pseudonaja affinis affinis* on the mainland. Less critical, perhaps, is the lack of a trinomial for the coastal and insular race of the Spiny-tailed Gecko (*Diplodactylus spinigerus spinigerus*) and the western races of the Carpet Snake (*Morelia spilota imbricata*) and Tiger Snake (*Notechis scutatus occidentalis*).

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First records of the blind snake *Ramphotyphlops braminus* from Western Australia – Recently 1 submitted to the Western Australian Museum, for identification, two small, dark, dumpy, blind snakes I collected on 11 and 20 February 1997 at Kingston Rest (16°02'S, 128°24'E) in the Kimberley Division of Western Australia. L.A. Smith, Museum of Natural Science, Perth, has identified them as *Ramphotyphlops braminus*, the first specimens of this species from Western Australia. Details of the specimens (WAM R129306–307) are as follows: Midbody scale rows 20; nasal cleft proceeding from preocular to rostral, completely dividing the nasal scale. Rostral narrowest anteriorly. The ventrals on R129306 number 331. The better preserved of the two specimens (129307) is dark purplish brown on the back fading to paler brown on the belly.

Apart from these records *Ramphotyphlops braminus* is only known on the Australian mainland from the vicinity of Darwin (see H.G. Cogger, *Reptiles and Amphibians of Australia* fifth ed. p.589). The most likely source of this tramp species' (sometimes referred to as the flower-pot snake) introduction into Western Australia, would be in garden material or farming equipment and supplies brought in by trucks from the Northern Territory.

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